GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:489
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEMES
Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid;Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the discontinuation of the assistance for creation of sports facilities through Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes to States w.e.f. 1 April, 2005 has affected the development of sports activities in the country, particularly in the matter of development of cost intensive infrastructure such as synthetic surface etc ;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the State Governments are reluctant to invest in the cost intensive sports infrastructure development projects as a result of non-assistance from the Central Government ;

(d) if so, whether the Government has formulated or is considering any alternative scheme/proposal for replacing the previous one; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 489 FOR 9.5.2007 BY SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN AND SHRI GANESH SINGH REGARDING SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME.

(a) to (b) : After the transfer of the sports Infrastructure Schemes to the State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005, it has been left to State Governments to make their own plans for the development of sports infrastructure, including cost intensive projects, as per their respective State plans. It is also possible for the States in the North East to secure funding from the North Eastern Council in the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (LNCPR) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER). Nevertheless, in view of the very considerable shortage of sports infrastructure in both rural and urban India, it does appear necessary to revisit this requirement. The Ministry is engaged in doing so on the direction of the Cabinet to prepare a `Comprehensive Sports Policy`.

(c) In view of the limited spending by most State Governments on the creation of sports infrastructure, including sophisticated cost - intensive infrastructure, there would appear to be constraints in resource availability to States which needs to be addressed. This will be done in the framework of the preparations of the forthcoming `Comprehensive Sports Policy`.

(d) & (e) The Sports Authority of India has sports infrastructure spread all over the country, which is utilized to operate a number of sports coaching and training schemes such as the National Sports Talent Contest Scheme, the SAI Training Centre Scheme, the Special Area Games Scheme, the Army Boys Sports Company and SAI Centres of Excellence. At present, approximately 13000 trainees are getting training and other requisite scientific support under these schemes at 230 centres all over the country.

Moreover, in recognition of the shortage of sports infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is proposing to launch a nation-wide scheme entitled `Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan` with the objective of reaching down to the rural grassroots to develop basic sports infrastructure and promote games and sports activities at the Village Panchayat & Block Panchayat level, both as an essential ingredient of youth development and to significantly expand the talent pool available to the country to promote excellence in sports. Consultations are being held in this regard with all stakeholders with a view to finalizing the proposals as soon as possible.